

Community-Based Job Training Grants

Trinidad State Junior College



Grantee: Trinidad State Junior College (TSJC), a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Industry Focus: Energy and Construction

Key Partners: Rocky Mountain Service Employment Redevelopment (SER)/Jobs for Progress, Inc.; Pioneer Natural Resources USA, Inc.; Weatherford International, Ltd.; and Purgatoire Valley Construction

Grant Amount: \$1,496,673

Leveraged Amount: \$1,043,310

Location of Grant Activities: Colorado

Challenge: The need for skilled employees in the coal bed methane extraction industry, representing 85% of the regional workforce, has grown over the past five years, surpassing the availability of qualified workers in the region. Trinidad/Las Animas County Economic Development estimates an additional 500 employees will be needed for production and sub-contractor work directly related to the industry.

Addressing the Challenge: This project will develop a regional occupational training and employment resource program for welders, diesel mechanics, and heavy equipment operators. An advisory committee will be formed to develop a customized certificate program and to invest in program infrastructure, including instructors and equipment.

Projected Outcomes:

- 250 individuals will be recruited into the Energy Production and Industrial Construction (EPIC) program
- 180 students will enroll in EPIC Training at TSJC during the three-year grant period
- 150 certificates and degrees to EPIC trained students will be awarded
- 120 trained industry professionals will gain employment in the energy production or industrial construction industry

